

27 Oct 1783 Bishop of Lincoln to John Erasmus Blackett

London October 27 1783

Sir,

Being informed that you have the management of Sir Thos Blackett's Money matter relating to his Lead-mines in the Parish of Stanhope, I make this application to you for the payment of half a year's Tythe, due to me on the 14th last August, amounting to the sum of £157, 10 This money has always been paid by Mr Thomas's agent into Childs shop where a Receipt is left; and hither to with the utmost punctuality.

If I have been misdirected in making this Application, you will, I hope excuse it; and do me the favour to inform me of the name of the Person who is employed in this business; or will be kind enough to oblige me with Mr Thomas Blackett's address. Your speedy answer, direct to the Bishop of Lincoln, at the Deanery, ST Paul's London will much oblige,

Sir your most obedient and humble servant Thos Lincoln.

29 Oct 1792 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blackett

Newhouse Oct 29th 1792

Sir,

I make no doubt but, Mr. Isaac Hunter wd let you know that he and I attended the meeting at Wolsingham, and how matters were settled there in regard to the intended road from Lobleyhill to Aldstone we were told by the Gentlemen present at the last meeting that they had no intention of fixing any gates so as to injure the lead mines in this country, but some of them said as the road would be better it would be no way unreasonable for Mr Beaumont to pay a small sum yearly on acct of his ore carriage. but, how fair it may be right so to do I cannot say, only I wish to acquaint you that all the said Road will be got on the south side of Wear, where mines have been very poor of late, but I expect some of them will do well in a little time.

I am Sir yr mo. Hble servt,

Thos Emerson

PS. With this you receive a Brace of Birds

7 Nov 1794 Westgarth Forster to John Erasmus Blackett

A[llen]heads Nov 7th 1794

Sir

The time of our being down at Newcastle for the subsistance for the Workmen at Allenheads will be on Monday the Seventeenth of this month, when I shall wait upon

you on Tuesday when most convenient to you, the sum wanted will be £600 for the subsistence and wood payments against that time.

My nephew John Forster who lives at Wolfcleugh and has a small farm there, and he and his late father Delivered the Gunpowder and Candle there for this 19 years & looked to the washing and delivery of the ore, he is a very fine young Man between Twenty and Thirty years of age has got a wife and lives upon place, he is both a joiner and Engine Wright and knows the Mines very well I was desired to bring him up in that way by the late Sir Thos Blackett Bart and he always goes throw the mines with me or my son and such a person you should not loose, he never had any thing but 14£ per year which was allowed by Sir Walter Balckett Bart, but I allowed him the Drawing of the work for the Workmen with two horses which made it something worth his while, should he take it as a most particular favour that you would continue him in the same for Mr Emmerson must have one as he lives at greater distance from te works than I do and it will be highly necessary to have one upon the place and one who knows his Bussiness, as to me I never had one sixpense for Directing the works at Wolfcleugh but gave up the horses so as to have a person that I could confide in constantly upon the place.

I am Sir yr, most Obt hbl Svt
Westgarth Forster.

31 Jul 1796 Isaac Wilkinson to John Erasmus Blackett

Tapton House July 31st 1796

Dear Sir,

I had the favour of your Letter, and was very happy to hear, you got well home --- We were extremely concern'd, to hear Mrs Stead was prevented coming to Chesterfield by Illness, we hope she is now much better, which it will give us great pleasure if you will inform of, and who, if she still continues her intention, of coming to consult Doctor Tate. --- I did as you desired, with respect to the Letter, and the Lodgings---

Since you were here, there has been some Sales of Derbyshire Lead in London at £18.5- per fodder. The price still continues at £19 at Hull. our Stocks in this County are not large, I shou'd hope it will not be much lower, than it is at present, altho' I am well aware, the London Houses will endeavour to beat down the price.

Mrs Wilkinson & Miss Golightly join me in best compts to you for Mrs Collingwood.

I am Dear Sir Your most obedt. Servant Isaac Wilkinson

12 Aug 1797 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Dryburn lead mine is probably near Woodcroft in Weardale]

Newhouse Augt ye 12th 1797

Sir,

I received the inclosed from the men who are working the freehold part of Dryburn lead mine, and as they are only ab[ou]t 70 fathoms from where the vein comes into the copyhold they are wanting a bargain from thence to the top of the Fell, But I expect you'll not think much of their proposals because it would be quite a new precedent both as to Length of ground (which may be nearly a mile) and that of haveing the ore to dispose of for paying Colonel Beaumont 12s per Bing. But as the copyhold part is rather fast, until a Level is brought from the Freehold, I think it may be right to give them 40 or 45s per bing for the ore they get in 150 or 200 fathoms for a term of years. They to drive thro the ground they take, as soon as they possibly can, keep the way gates in repair and find all materials. My son must wait upon you for the workmen's subsistence on the 22nd inst when you please to let him know what answer to give the men in regard to their proposal.

Bollihope is to be sold on 17th of this month when perhaps some may expect Colonel Beaumont will give a large sum for the freehold part of the lead mine but as the level, water races and the engine and shafts are in a very ruinous state so that it will cost a great deal of money to make them as good as they were two years since.

As to the leasehold paying a Fourth Duty, no man that lets a Lead mine need wish for better Terms.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant Thos Emmerson

PS with this my son has sent you five brace of moor game which he begs your acceptance of.

To: T.R.Beaumont Esq
Mr Thos Emmerson Newhouse

Sir, as we have come to a Conclusion since we saw you last that to have the West end of Dryburn lead mine and wishing to give our Proposal upon Equitable terms we are willing to pay 12 shillings per Bing out for every Bing we raise and to have liberty to work the said vein as we think proper and to have in length to the height of the fell Westward for our Bounder the time to work her to be settled by the Agent and likewise we will be bound to keep the shafts Levell or whatever in repair if you think proper to start at the fore end of our works upon Conditions of you making Convenience at the Bank.

Jon. Walton <& rest>
Thos Hackward <sener>
Wm Lee
Thos Cant
Robt Walton
Thos Lee

6 Mar 1798 Thomas Emerson to Mr Joshua Straker

Newhouse Mar 6 1798

Dear Sir,

I received your Letter relative to the intended Division of the <Stinted> Pastures & Fells in this Country. As to Wastelands, the Owners will not admit there is any. If Colonel Beaumont cannot prevent the said divisions from getting forward, proper clauses should be made in the act, such as liberty to make Water races, Hushes to discover veins, Sink Shafts, drive Levels, & wash work, with carry other privelidges for working the mines in the said Stinted pastures, & Fells without paying any thing for damage which has always been the case. In the ancient inclosed part of the Customary Freehold we have paid 6s 8d a Shaft for breaking ground, But further than that we have paid more on and of the extent of the works and quality of the Land taken up. As to the Copy hold I think the same damage has been paid as in the Customary Freehold.

I am Dear Sir Yr mo hbl Servt Thomas Emerson

P.S. I write to Mr Blackett About three weeks since, nearly as above

11 Jul 1798 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blackett

Newhouse July 11 1798

Sir,

I intend to be in Newcastle on Monday the 23rd Inst. in order to wait upon you for the Workmens subsistence when if you please, I should have £1600

I am Sir, Yours mo. obt. hble Servant

Thos. Emerson Junr.

5 Sep 1798 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blackett

Newhouse Sept 5th 1798

Sir,

Yours of the 30th of last Month I received and am sorry to hear that it has been reported to the Bishop that my Father or I am so much adverse to the intended Division in this Country, as we don't expressing our sentiments fully on that subject to any one but your self & Mr <Heron>. Mr Harding was here wishing to hear what we thought expecting the same when my father told him that he feared that it w[oul]d injure the working of the mines if Damage was to be paid in the New Inclosures. Mr Heron is in possession of all the information that we can give respecting what clause would be

proper to insist in regard to preserve Colonel Beaumonts rights if an act be got for the above Division. I shall procure you some game against the 20th Inst.

I shall be in Newcastle on the 17th order to wait upon you for the Sunday Morning when if you please I should have 1650£. You'll receive Two Brace of Birds herewith which you'll please to accept.

Yours Sir Your mo ob Servt Tho Emerson Jun

6 Nov 1798 Isaac Wilkinson to John Erasmus Blackett

Chesterfield Nov 6th 1798

Dear Sir

I duly received your esteemed favour of the 2nd instant advising me of the Sales of Lead which you have made, also the present note of your Market, and your sentiments on the Trade, all of which I think myself greatly obliged to you for. I perfectly agree with you in opinion, there is great probability there will be between now & the Spring a demand for Lead, and an advance in price in consequence of the two late naval victories, these will be consider the quantities of Lead Exported to Turkey and Italy &c.

The price of Derbyshire Lead is only nominal at £16.6s at Hull, the stocks on hand are but small and the quantity of Ore raised in this County now is very little indeed, & will continue so during the Winter. I was told the other day Messrs Walkers Company were very desirous of buying Lead on speculation, which plainly shows their sentiments on the subject, they think the price is as low as it will be.

Mrs Wilkinson and Miss Margaret Golightly who is now at Tapton House join me in respectful compliments to yourself & Mrs Collingwood.

I am with great regard Dear Sir

Your most Obedt H'ble Serv

Isaac Wilkinson

11 Jan 1799 William Lee to John Erasmus Blackett

Grove 11th Jan 1799

Dear Sir

I am desired by Mr Paris the Gentleman who married my sister & the head of the House of Paris, Warre, Harvey and Co the great Russia House to request you will give him a line to Grove to say at what price you are selling your Lead and the terms of Sale. They send a great quantity of Lead every year to Russia, not less than Fourteen or Fifteen thousand Pounds worth, Which at present they get at Hull, and the greatest part of it Blackett Lead, by being the purchaser from you. Mr Paris says he shall save on profit, which will materially increase the sale in Russia as they can then take at lower to market, that he makes no doubt but of taking annually to the amount of twenty thousand pounds. I must mention one material consideration in times like the present, that you may depend upon punctual payments from them. I will thank you to mention in your letter whether or not you have any constant traders that go from

Newcastle to the Baltic, if not it will be an additional expense the sending the lead to Hull. Mrs Lee joins me in best complts wishing you many Returns of the Season & I am
Dear Sir

Your Obedt H'ble Servt
Wm Lee

To John Erasmus Blakett, Charlotte Square, Newcastle

17 Jan 1799 Archibald Paris to John Erasmus Blakett

Leeds 17th January 1799

Mr John E Blakett

Sir, In consequence of your last letter to Mr Wm Lee which I saw I request you will inform me whether the price of lead you quoted of £17.10 is on long credit as the last quotation from Hull was £16.10. 3 or 2 mo[nths] and truly it is in your power to serve me better than any of the merchants there. From the connection of my own punctuality I expect you will serve me the most liberal terms & under this presumption. I shall have the pleasure of ordering 40 or 50 tons this Spring for a tryal to be sent to my house at St. Petersburg and about April I shall be obliged to you for the state of your market. I shall be in London next week my address is Newbroad Street No.7

Iam truly Sir your ob. Servt
Arch'd Paris

23 Jan 1799 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blakett

Newhouse Jan 23 1799

Sir,

I should have wrote you last week relative to the Meeting at Stanhope but I expected Mr Williamson would have informed you of the particulars of the said Meeting -- It is said if the Intended Division get forward, that Colonel Beaumont will not have the priviledge of discovering and Working Veins by hushing, should that be the case, he should not be deprived the liberty of hushing Wastes as it is not only the best way of working them, but also does least Damage to the Ground, as by that means they are commonly conveyed in to some Burn or Rivulet, and by any other way of working them they are spread, and left upon the Ground.

Mr <Scrinton> has wrote to my Father, requesting his signature to the petition to Parliment, but my Father does not wish to give his consent, till he hear from you. He is not against a Division of the little property he has in this Country; but would not wish to advise any other proprietors for or against.

I have sent a Box containing a few pieces of Spar, they are not so good as I would wish, but our Groves do not produce any better now. --

I am Sir Your mo obt Servt Thos Emerson Jnr

1 Mar 1799 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blckett

[Note: No date given, but annotated by JEBlckett 'Thos Emerson jnr Mar 1799']

Sir,

I attended the meeting at Chapel on Monday last There was a strong party much against the clause in the Bill empowering Colonel Beaumont to work the mines within the stinted pastures without paying damages but from the strong arguments used by Mr Mowbray & other gentlemen most of the party submitted to the Clauses And signed the Bill (only Wallis excepted) so I think there is not any doubt now but that the Division will get forward Mr Harding did not attend the meeting I suppose from indisposition Mr Bell was chosen one of the Commissioners without much opposition

Mr Thos Crawhall in his letter to me last week requested me to show you the plan of Newlands side Lead Mines: but as I do not recollect taken it with me I hope you'll find it amongst your own papers

You had the goodness to inform me last September that I might make my salary £10 a year more but as you did not say from what time therefore you'll be pleased to let Mr T Crawhall inform me whether I am to charge any part of it for the first pay or not

Inclosed have returned you the schedule of the Land Tax and the rentals of the proprietors of Bollihope Common

Yours Sir Your Most Obedient Servant Thomas Emerson

22 Mar 1799 Archibald Paris to John Erasmus Blckett

No 25 Newbroad Street 22 March 1799

John E Blckett Esq

Sir I received your favor of the 21st Jany in cause having no correspondence at Newcastle may I trouble you to employ a Broker to ship fifty tons of your lead for my House at S. Petersburg by the first ships at the lowest freight making the bill of lading to order. Which will be an introduction for future shipments & avoid occasioning you this trouble again. I depend on your charging me the lowest price by new bill at the customary date will meet due honor at the hands of Sir

Your most odb svt

Arch'd Paris

2 Apr 1799 Isaac Wilkinson to John Erasmus Blackett

Chesterfield April 2nd 1799

Dear Sir

I have received your esteemed favour of the 28th Ultimo, and duly note the contents. I think myself much obliged to you, for advising me, the present state of your Lead Market and agreeable to your request, I now inform you, the situation of ours, I do not know, there has been any Derbyshire Lead sold at Hull at present, higher than £17 for ore Stocks on hand are small, and the mines in general in this County exceeding poor, and very little prospect of being any better soon.

A few days ago, I received letter from Stockton advising me, the state of that Market, Lead was selling there at £17.10. pr Fo[ther] and very little on hand, I believe the Mines in the North part of Yorkshire are not very good as they have been for some years past.

I am of opinion if there should be this Spring a tolerable demand for Lead it will advance considerably as the stocks at the different Markets are but small, when there is any further alteration with you I should be very glad to hear from you.

I hope altho you did not receive any immediate advantage from being at Harrogate the bitter end of the year you have had a tolerable Winter, considering the severity of the weather, as you make no mention of yourself in your last letter.

Mrs Wilkinson joins me in respectful compliments.

I am with great regards Dear Sir Your most obedient servant.

Isaac Wilkinson.

17 Apr 1799 Archibald Paris to John Erasmus Blackett

J E Blackett Esq

London 17th April 1799

Sir

In answer to your esteemed of the 24th March I thank you for your kind offer to purchase the Lead for me which I am sure you would do on the best terms in your power but as I find the price is lower at Hull say £16.10. I have ordered 150 tons there and consequently shall not have occasion to trouble you till your account is more favourable. Believe me with sentiments of respect.

Sir Your most Obd Servt. Arch'd Paris

The Ex at St Petersburg is fallen to 24 ¼ p ruble

30 Apr 1799 Robert Mulcaster to John Erasmus Blackett

30 April 1799

[annotated by J E Blackett:] Robert Mulcaster Observations about Barlow Common

April 30 1799 – Went this day to Barlow and marked out about 46 Acres of the Northwest part of the Common abutting an Estate for Sir Thos. Clavering Bart. On the West to Barlow Common on the S, to Mr. Beaumont's farm now in the occupation of Jn.o. Richardson on the east on Barlowburn the boundary of Winlton Lordship on the South.

May 1st & 2nd Had two men making a hedge on Barlow Common on the line marked out preceding day.

May 2nd Understand Mr. Ramsey Agent for Miss Simpson along with most of her tenants in Winlton Lordship have marked out about 64 Acres of Barlow Common for Miss Simpson have not yet seen what they have done so cannot say where their intended incroachment lays.

May 6th Understand Mr. Todd, Mr. Silvertop's agent has this day been on Barlow Common and has marked out adjoining Mr. Silvertop's Ash Tree Estate about 30 acres of the Common.

Attended this day Mr. Standish's rent day at Stella. Mr. Ainsley told me he had heard what I had done on Barlow Common, said it was, circumstances considered, perfectly right as leading the way to general Division of all the commons but which he was certain could not properly be done without an Act of Parliament to which if the rest of the proprietors agreed Mr. Standish he was certain would not refuse his Assent – agreed as none of the Properties had an actual Survey of Beda Common that a survey of it with the incroachments on it should be directly set about to which on Mr. Beaumont's part I assented the expense to every several proprietors will I understand on delivery to each of a Plan be about 2 Guineas this Common contains by Estimation about 150 acres and being although part of Winlton Lordship within Chopwell Township has an advantage which Barlow Common has not that is of being Tithe free consequently if a Division takes place the 150 acres this Common is supposed to contain with the above advantage the acknowledged superiority of its said and of its situation almost adjoining the River Derwent will I believe make it of more or at least equal value within the 240 Acres of Common on Barlow Common most of this common if a division takes place will certainly be allotted Mr. Standish, Lord Strathmore, Sir. Thos. Clavering probably a part to the Marquis's of Bute & Hertford for their Estate, in Winlton Lordship, at Thornely which doesn't join either Barlow, Winlton, Blaydon or Beda Commons.

May 7th Waited this day on Mr. Silvertop Esq. at his house at Stella and laid down on the table before him £1 6s 3d rent for a year and a half due Mart[inna]s last from Mr. Beaumont as we apprehend due to him as an amount payable out of a farm at

Winlaton Mr. Beaumont's property now in the occupation of Jno & Jora Robson. of this rent Mr. Silvertop declined the acceptance but said he would acknowledge the Tender Said from Plans in his hand he could make appear the rent due to him was not due as an out rent but for 1/16 of specific premises sufficiently pointed out and ascertained with regard to situation by the plan in his hand, that the rent for that 1/16 of these premises was a matter of no concern whether more or less than what I offered but he looked on that 1/16 as his free property that he might let or dispose of as he pleased the above is a near as I can recollect tho perhaps not the very words, the purport of what Mr. Silvertop said to me – he mentioned speaking when opportunity offered about it to Mr. Ald[erman] Blackett

Rob. Mulcaster

18 May 1799 Isaac Wilkinson to John Erasmus Blackett

Chesterfield 18th May 1799

Dear Sir

I think it but right and proper to acquaint you, altho I was told in confidence by one of our neighbours that he has just now sold 1000 pieces of Derbyshire Lead at (Hull) at £18 pr Fo[the]r and he is not limited to time in the delivery of it, which is a plain proof of who ever the lead is for, they think the price will be higher, our friend further told us, he has some reason to believe the purchase is made for Messrs Walker & Co's house. Mr Fishwick called upon us in his way from London, about a fortnight ago, he seem'd desirous to make a purchase of some lead, I told him, we had not any to dispose of, from all these circumstances I am of opinion, the London Houses have no doubt but the price will be higher, if it is not immediately, the latter end of the Summer. The Stocks of Lead in this county are very small, the mines in general very poor I must beg of you that you will keep the information I send you about the 1000 ps lead, that have been sold at Hull to yourself.

I shall think myself much obliged to you if there has been any purchases of lead at your Market of consequence, since you was so kind as to advise me to give me time at the same time to mention the stock in hand.

Mrs Wilkinson joins me in respectful Compliments.

I am with great regard Dear Sir

Your most obed servant Isaac Wilkinson

13 Jun 1799 William Wilson to Thomas Emerson

[Note: See covering letter from Emerson to JEBlackett dated 14 June]

Wolsingham June 13 1799

Mr Emerson, New House, near Chapel, Weardale

By favour of Mr Jonn

Sir, As Mr Alderman Blackett some time ago signified to you by a letter which he then shewed me, that he desired you would call upon all the agents & workmen under Colonel Beaumont to give me every information & assistance in their power respecting Harehope gill lead mine (as colonel Beaumont's interest & mine were the same in that business) I therefore desire that you will please to signify to Mr Allgood by letter that I could wish to see him at Wolsingham on that business immediately & also to desire him to be under my orders whenever I shall call for his assistance. As I make this request by desire of the gentlemen of the law, I expect to have it complied with.

I am Sir Y[ou]r h[onora]ble Serv[an]t

W. Wilson, Rector of Wolsingham

The Rev. Mr Jonn is so good as to deliver this

14 Jun 1799 Thomas Emerson to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: See letter from Rev Wilson to Thos Emerson dated 13 June 1799]

Newhouse June 14 1799

Sir,

You will please to peruse the Inclosed & inform my Father whether you wish to obey Mr Wilsons orders or not. We showed Mr Allgood the Inclosed letter but would not advise him whether to go to Wolsingham immediately according to his friends directions or wait till we heard from you.

I intend to be in Newcastle on Monday of 24 inst in order to wait upon you for the Workmans Subsistence when if you please I should have 1750£ on acc[oun]t of having some wood payments.

Yours Sir Your most obedient Serv[an]t

Tho[ma]s Emerson Jun[ior]

18 Aug 1799 Isaac Wilkinson to John Erasmus Blackett

Chesterfield August 18th 1799

Dear Sir

Yesterday I was informed there had been a parcel of Derbyshire lead sold lately at Hull at £18.10. pr Fo[ther] in consequence of this Sale, we expect firstly to obtain higher prices than that, say £18.10 for a quantity, as Pig Lead is just now much enquired after, by the London Houses also by W. F. and Co. [Walker & Fishwick, Elswick] of your Town, by this, it plainly shows they expect it will advance between now & Mich[aelmas].

I will be much obliged to you if you will be so kind as to favour me with a line to say if you have made any sales, since I had the pleasure of hearing from you also if you have had many applications for Pig Lead lately. Mrs Wilkinson desires her best Compliments.

I am with best respects Dear Sir your most obedient Svt Isaac Wilkinson.

£18.10 pr Fo[ther] has been refused for Yorkshire Lead at Hull

30 Aug 1799 Isaac Wilkinson to John Erasmus Blackett

Chesterfield August 30th 1799

To John E Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Dear Sir,

I duly received your esteemed favour of the 10th instant for which I am much obliged to you, as I presume you will very soon make a sale to the London houses, I think it may not be amiss to acquaint you, there is at this time no lead on hand at Hull worth mentioning, either Yorkshire or Derbyshire, the latter has been bought up £19.00 for fodder, so I believe chiefly by Mr. F & Co. One of our friends writes us Mr. F was at Hull on Saturday last, I told him there were 40,000 pieces lead to be sold very soon at Newcastle and that the price would come down, whether there is that quantity, or not you know best be that as it may I do not believe it is Mr. Fs real opinion lead will be lower, but the contrary as we had a letter dated 26th instant from their house in London, desiring we would fix them a price of 1,000 pieces of Derbyshire lead, which we have declined doing, and we have also been informed, the said house have offered to make contracts for lead for some months to come, which plainly shows they think it will be dearer. We have a letter this morning from Stockton, and I find their mines are very poor, but little lead on hand. Our mines in this country most productive are under water, and there is but little lead undisposed of. As soon as you have made your sale, I will be much obliged by the favour of a line and any information I communicate, you will please not to let it transpire – Mrs. Wilkinson begs I would give her best compliments to you.

I am with great regards Dear Sir Your most obedient honourable friend
Isaac Wilkinson

1 Dec 1799 Robert Mulcaster to John Erasmus Blackett

Blaydon 1st December 1799

Sir

The Overseer of the Poor of Winlaton Township has been with me this afternoon to acquaint me that application has been made to him by several of the principal

Inhabitants of the Township to request a meeting of the Lords of Winlaton Agents, and of all the occupiers of lands within the Township for the purpose of taking into consideration some mode of relieving the Poor Inhabitants of the Township who they believe are suffering want from the present high price of the necessaries of life

At this meeting I understand it is meant to propose adopting the mode taken here in the year 1795, which was to raise a fund by a collection of 6d in the pound according to the Rack rent of all lands within the Township 4d of which was then paid by the Proprietor of the Lands & 2d in the pound by the Occupier with the money then raised, Rie [rye], or Rie meal, or Barley, Barley Meal, Oat meal and Potatoes were by a committee appointed purchased as low as possible, and sold out in small quantities weekly to Indigent persons for ready money by & at reduced prices until the whole Fund was exhausted according to the Present Rental of Winlaton Township 6d in the pound will raise about £100 it was less in the year 1795 yet for more than six months gave great relief to the Poor, the Persons then appointed a committee charging nothing for their Trouble and acting with such impartiality as to give universal Content.

My answer to the Overseer was that as an occupier of land within the Township the Proposal [has] my hearty Assent but with regard to what might be expected from Mr Beaumont as a Proprietor of land within the Township I could say nothing until I had direction from you, which Sir I request you to give me if you conveniently can some time before Thursday next.

By the state of the Refinery left at the office on Saturday you will see we has [have] a near 800 ps [pieces] refined lead unsold, but still want near 1900 pieces of common Lead, which circumstances considered I doubt we will be long in getting. By a letter I received last week from Mr C Blacketts Clerk which I inclose I see Common Lead does not suit Lock. Blackett & Co factory their order is for 1000 ps with the usual quantity of slag, 1000 ps of which I have only delivered them 18 ps <common & 9 ps> slag, perhaps if that order was cancelled and another in its room for 2000 ps all refined given it might suit all Parties & others, only it would loose the sale of 100 ps of slag lead of which we have plenty - if this alteration took place I would not fear compleating in the course of the present month all the orders in my hand and would reduce the want of common lead to about 900 ps hope you will pardon my freedom in suggesting the above to your consideration and I remain your very humble ser[van]t

Robt Mulcaster

31 Dec 1799 Robert Mulcaster to John Erasmus Blakett

Blaydon 31st December 1799

Sir

Last night a Vestry Meeting I saw <Stalport> the Game Keeper who told me he had that day got for you three woodcocks and a hare that he would have sent you them down by the post this evening but having to be in Newcastle on Wednesday morning

and being in hopes of procuring something more for you this day, he thought it would be better to let be sending them by the post and desired me to inform you that you may depend on having what is above named if not more by nine-o-clock tomorrow morning

Jo[h]n Thompsons <Cartman> will call on Mr Crawhall on Thursday for 30 Bolls of <Rie> to bring hither - wishing you most heartily many returns of the season I remain your very humble Servt

Robt Mulcaster